

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 /023 W

----- 020309

R 081645Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8553

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS QUITO 0170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINK, PORS, SOPN, EC

SUBJECT: CHANNEL 4 NEWSMEN RELEASED FROM JAIL

REF: QUITO 0052

1. TWO CHANNEL 4 QUITO EXECUTIVES WERE RELEASED
FROM PRISON JANUARY 8, ENDING FIVE DAYS OF OFFICIAL SILENCE REGARDING
THEIR WHEREABOUTS SINCE THEIR ARREST FOR VIOLATING A GOVERNMENT BAN

ON REPORTING ANY DETAILS OF THE SEPT. 1 ABORTIVE COUP.

2. DIEGO OQUENDO, THE NEWS DIRECTOR, AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR
GUILLERMO LASSO CONTINUED TO DENY THEY HAD COMMITTED ANY CRIME
IN INCLUDING COVERAGE OF THE SEPT. 1 EVENTS IN THE ANNUAL YEAREND
NEWS ROUNDUP. EL TIEMPO, UNDER THE SAME OWNERSHIP AS
CHANNEL 4, QUOTED THEM AS SAYING IT "WILL NEVER BE POSSIBLE TO
PROLONG AUGUST 31 TO LEAP TO SEPTEMBER 2."

3. CHANNEL 4 WAS ORDERED OFF THE AIR BY THE GOVERNMENT ON
JANUARY 2; AT THE SAME TIME THE TWO EXECUTIVES WERE
ARRESTED, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK. THE GOE ACTION DREW
BROAD CRITICISM FROM MEDIA SECTORS AND STATEMENTS OF
SOLIDARITY BY MEDIA AND POLITICAL PARTIES. THE THREE MAJOR
GUAYAQUIL NEWSPAPERS, EL UNIVERSO, EL TELEGRAFO, AND
EXPRESOH PRINTED BLANK SPACES IN PLACE OF EDITORIAL COLUMNS TO
SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH CHANNEL 4 AND THE TWO NEWSMEN.

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GUAYAQUIL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AGREED TO 15 MINUTES OF

SILENCE FROM 8 TO 8:15 P.M. ON JANUARY 7.

4. AUTHORITIES IN ANNOUNCING THE PENALTY JANUARY 7 SAID THE
MINIMUM SENTENCE UNDER THE PENAL CODE SECTION THAT HAD BEEN
VIOLATED WAS TWO DAYS FROM THE TIME THE CASE CAME TO COURT.
BOTH MEN HAD BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO SINCE THEIR ARREST.
HEMENWAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO00170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760007-0292
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760175/aaaacpbe.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 QUITO 52
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANNEL 4 NEWSMEN RELEASED FROM JAIL
TAGS: PORS, SOPN, EC, (OQUENDO, DIEGO), (LASSO, GUILLERMO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006